GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3644
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2006
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN AGRO SECTOR
Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed big corporate houses to set up Special Zones in Agro Sector in the country;

(b) if so, the norms and criteria for setting up special Zones in Agro Sector in the country;

(c) whether big corporate houses are trying to grab the highly fertile agricultural lands from the farmers in the name of establishment of Special Zones in Agro Sector; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) and (b) The policy of the Government is to encourage and facilitate the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the private sector or joint sector in association with the State Governments or by the State Governments themselves. The criteria for setting up of Special Economic Zones prescribed in the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 include minimum area, generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports, promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities. Approval has been given to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation for setting up an SEZ in the Agro Sector in Latur, Maharashtra.

(c) No such reports have been established.

(d) Does not arise.